

# Numbers 6:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head.

## Analysis

He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head.<sup>1</sup> The Nazirite vow superseded even family obligations—normal mourning rituals involving corpse contact were forbidden. This parallels the high priest's restrictions (Leviticus 21:11) and shows that consecration to God takes precedence over natural ties. The phrase 'consecration of his God is upon his head' indicates the visible sign (long hair) representing invisible dedication. This demonstrates the principle that devotion to God transcends earthly relationships. Jesus taught similarly: 'He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me' (Matthew 10:37). The Nazirite's extreme separation illustrated that knowing God requires prioritizing Him above all, even legitimate good things. This voluntary devotion anticipated the total consecration Christ calls believers to demonstrate.

## Historical Context

The prohibition against corpse contamination normally applied only to priests (Leviticus 21:1-3), who could make exception for immediate family. The Nazirite vow elevated ordinary Israelites to a priestly level of consecration during the vow period. Ancient Near Eastern mourning practices often involved close contact with the deceased, making this restriction significant. The reference to 'his head' containing God's consecration relates to the uncut hair symbolizing the vow. The

restriction prevented even accidental contamination that would break the vow and require purification (Numbers 6:9-12). This severe requirement showed the vow's seriousness—it wasn't to be undertaken lightly. Historical examples include Samson, whose strength derived from maintaining his consecration, and Samuel, whom Hannah dedicated before birth. The principle that devotion to God transcends natural affection challenges believers to examine their priorities.

## Related Passages

## Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

## **John 3:16 – God's love and salvation**

## Study Questions

1. What does the Nazirite vow's superseding of family obligations teach about the priority of devotion to God?
2. How do we balance honoring family relationships with Jesus' call to love Him above all earthly ties?

## Interlinear Text

לְאָבִיךְ וְלְאָמִינְךְ וְלְאָחִיךְ וְלְאָכִיךְ וְלְאָבִיךְ וְלְאָמִינְךְ וְלְאָחִיךְ וְלְאָכִיךְ H3808

כ י בָּמְתַת מְלָכָה לֹא יִטְמַט אֲלֵיכֶם  
He shall not make himself unclean when they die H3588 H4194  
H2930

רָאשׁוֹ עַל אֱלֹהָיו יְזַרְבֵּל  
because the consecration of his God is upon his head

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Numbers 9:6** (Parallel theme): And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that they could not keep the passover on that day: and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day:

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)